GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3393
ANSWERED ON:18.08.2003
SHIFTING OF CULTIVATION
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the farmers have been advised to shift their cultivation from cereals to oilseeds and pulses to check the huge outflow of foreign exchange on import of these items;

(b) if so, the ways in which the Government purpose to help the farmers to achieve the desired goals; and

(c) by when the country is likely to become self-sufficient in these commodities?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a)to(c): Yes, Sir. The State Governments are being advised to undertake diversificationprogrammes substituting traditional crops with suitable crops giving thrust on oilseeds and pulses. In order to increase production and productivity of oilseeds and pulses, two Centrally Sponsored Schemes namely, Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) and National Pulses Development Project (NPDP) are being implemented in various states of the country to increase the production of these crops. Under both these schemes financial assistance is provided on various inputs like production and distribution of seeds, distribution of seed minikits, distribution of improved farm implements, sprinkler sets, rhyzobium culture and micro nutrients etc. In order to disseminate the production technology amongst the farmers frontline demonstrations are organized by the I.C.A.R. and block demonstrations are organized by the State Deptt. of Agriculture.

The production of these commodities depends upon the weather conditions. In case the weather conditions remain favourable in coming years, the production of these commodities is expected to increase to the targeted level to make the country self sufficient.